

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

INFO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: GDS

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SUBJECT: EC-9 INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS - MEETING WITH ITALIAN

DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS PLAJA

1. ITALIAN DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS, FOREIGN MINISTRY, PLAJA CALLED ON ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY LOWENSTEIN JUNE 21 TO DISCUSS EC-9 INITIATIVE ON CYPRUS AND US VIEWS OF THE CYPRUS SITUATION AND THE TURKISH ARMS EMBARGO. PLAJA DESCRIBED THE GENESIS OF THE EC-9 INITIATIVE AT HELSINKI AND OUTLINED THE CONSIDERATIONS NOW AFFECTING A DECISION ON WHAT IF ANY INITIATIVE SHOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE CYPRUS INTER-COMMUNAL TALKS IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 8-9.

2. PLAJA OBSERVED THAT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT WAS EAGER FOR AN EARLY INITIATIVE AND THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS ALSO PRESSING THE ITALIANS AND OTHERS IN THIS REGARD. THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE OF DEMIREL AND CAGLAYANGIL IN HELSINKI AND OF DENKTASH IN NICOSIA, AS WELL AS PROGRESS MADE AT VIENNA III, HAD LED OTHERS OF THE NINETEEN TO PREFER DELAYING ANY MAJOR INITIATIVE AT LEAST UNTIL AFTER RESULTS OF THE NEW YORK TALKS COULD BE ASSESSED. PLAJA THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE THAT A MINIMAL INITIATIVE IN THE FORM OF A DEMARCHE BY ITALIAN AMBASSADORS IN ANKARA, ATHENS AND NICOSIA ON BEHALF OF THE NINETEEN SUPPORT OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS WOULD BE MADE.

3. LOWENSTEIN AND EUR/SE DIRECTOR EAGLETON BRIEFED PLAJA ON US ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT CYPRUS SITUATION, ON STATUS OF US FACILITIES IN TURKEY AND ON PROSPECTS FOR A VOTE ON BILL PARTIALLY LIFTING TURKISH EMBARGO EXPECTED SHORTLY AFTER SEPTEMBER 9. IT WAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE USG SUPPORTED AN INITIATIVE BY THE NINETEEN AT APPROPRIATE TIME BUT WOULD NOT WANT TO RECOMMEND ANY PARTICULAR APPROACH.

4. PLAJA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME CONTINUED CONSULTATIONS THROUGH ITALIAN EMBASSY ON ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS PRIOR TO TALKS IN NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 8-9. HE ALSO SUGGESTED WE COMPARE ASSESSMENTS AFTER THOSE TALKS AND THE HOUSE VOTE AT WHICH TIME EC-9 WOULD AGAIN CONSIDER WHAT, IF ANY, FURTHER INITIATIVE SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. MAW

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